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(CIPC) : Critical Inte~~lligence Problems~~ Committee

Office of the Chairman

23 December 1983

NOTE FOR: C/COMIREX
            C/SIGINT
            C/HUMINT
            C/FIPC
            D/PBS
            D/PPS

FROM: [   ]   25X1
            ES/CIPC

SUBJECT: CIPC Interim Report on Terrorism

1. Attached subject report is for your information and comments, as appropriate.

2. Because of the deadline we are working against, we need your comments no later than noon, 23 December.

3. We will provide you a copy of coordinated report.

Thanks,

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C 20505

Critical Intelligence Problems Committee

DCI/ICS 83-3929
22 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Critical Intelligence Problems Committee Members

FROM: 25X1

Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: CIPC Interim Report on Terrorism

1. The DCI recently tasked the CIPC to conduct a "fast-track" baseline review on how the Intelligence Community is handling, and organized to handle this problem. The DCI's deadline for an interim report on this subject is 24 December.

2. In response to the DCI's tasking an ad hoc working group of Community representatives was formed--Organizational Membership Roster attached.

3. The ad hoc working group has developed a report, and is attached for your review and comments. In view of our deadline, it is requested that your comments/concurrences be provided no later than noon, 23 December.

4. Subsequent to your review, the interim terrorist report will be forwarded to the DCI.

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Attachments: As stated

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SUBJECT: CIPC Interim Report on Terrorism

Distribution: DCI/ICS 83-3929
    1 - ea. CIPC Member
    1 - DD/ICS
    1 - ES/CIPC
    1 - CIPC/Subj
    1 - CIPC/Chrono
    1 - ICS Registry

With Attachment   25X1
    Copy 7 - Charles A. Briggs/CIA
          8   /DIA   25X1
          9   /NSA
     10 - Amb Herman J. Cohen/State
     11 - RADM John L. Butts/Navy
     12 - MGEN James C. Pfautz/USAF
     13 - MGEN William E. Odom/Army
     14 - Arthur W. Long/Treasury
     15 - Edward J. O'Malley/FBI
     16 - BGEN L.W. Smith/Marines
     17 - C/COMIREX
     18 - C/SIGINT
     19 - C/HUMINT
     20 - C/FIPC
     21 - D/PBS
     22 - D/PPS
     23 - CIPC/Subj
     24 - CIPC/Chrono
     25 - ICS Registry
     26 - Dick Cook/Navy NIS
     27 - Jack Renwick - Secret Service
     28 - Norm Hope/FBI

    Annotate registry's copy

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ATTACHMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Mr. Norman C. Hope	FBI	STAT
LtCol. Funkhouser	Army	
Mr. Ted Snediker	Army	
[redacted]	NSA	STAT
[redacted]	NSA	
LtCol. Harry Pannil	JSOC	
[redacted]	DIA	STAT
[redacted]	CIA	
[redacted]	CIA	
Mr. William Wordchock	Navy	
Mr. Richard Cook	Navy	
[redacted]	SIGINT	STAT
[redacted]	HUMINT	
Mr. Jack Renwick	Secret Service	
Mr. Leon Banker	USAF	
Mr. Terry Arnold	State	
Ms. Val Johnstone	State	
[redacted]	NSA	STAT
Mr. Tom Rowan	AFOSI	

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DCI/ICS 83-3928
22 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM: Eloise R. Page
                  Chairman, Critical Intelligence Problems Committee

SUBJECT: Intelligence Community Capabilities Against Terrorism

    1. At the off-site conference [   ] 11-12   25X1
December, you asked the Critical Intelligence Problems Committee to review the
Intelligence Community's effort against terrorism. The attached is our
initial response to that quick baseline review of where the IC stands now. It
was prepared by our staff working with representatives of CIA, DIA, NSA,
State, the Services, FBI, JSOC, and the Secret Service.

    2. This is a preliminary report. I have asked Community members to work
with the CIPC to examine this problem in depth and make specific
recommendations for actions which can be taken to improve our position on this
critical problem. We will provide you a report in four weeks.

                        Eloise R. Page

Attachment: As stated

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22 December 1983

A Review of the Intelligence Community's

Capabilities Against

Terrorism

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I. OVERVIEW

During the past nine months several changes in the character of the terrorist threat to United States interests have occurred. These changes include:

- the fragmentation of leadership and policies of Palestinian and other groups in the Middle East and their increased use of terrorism against the United States and other targets;

- the tendency toward indiscriminate use of terrorism by internationally active terrorist groups such as the IRA and Armenian terrorists;

- the delivery of large, vehicle-mounted explosive devices by fanatics who seem prepared to die;

- an escalation in the order of violence and the number of casualties caused by the growing size and increasingly indiscriminate use of bombs; and

- the increased intensity of terrorist activities by states and groups in the Middle East against other states known to oppose their activities or to favor US policies.

While none of these changes represents a wholly new problem, these developments together pose severe challenges for the Intelligence Community's efforts to collect, assess and disseminate intelligence in a timely and effective way, and for our efforts to protect our people and facilities from terrorist attack.

Judged in the light of these changes in the terrorism environment, several problems stand out as in need of further evaluation and correction. Our overall intelligence effort against terrorism has been much more reactive than predictive. The bombings in Beirut and Kuwait have underscored for us the need to acquire earlier, more complete information about terrorist activities and intentions. Particularly in the past few months the need to raise the priority given to terrorism by the whole Intelligence Community has become increasingly apparent.

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We have initiated discussion especially with the leadership of the Summit Seven on ways intelligence information sharing could be improved. The Community has disseminated an increasing number of threat alerts and followup messages. Even with those improvements, we have found the prediction of terrorist events extremely difficult.

The intensity of terrorist activity in recent months and the number of threatened installations have greatly increased the need particularly of our overseas missions and commands for timely analysis of threats and for early warnings. The flood of threats and reports of terrorist activities challenge the Community, not only to improve its analysis and reaction times, but also to provide threat warnings in readily useable forms which do not compromise sources and methods. The Community is looking at ways to shorten its reaction time and to provide threat-related intelligence in a uniform format that is easy to use.

The problems of tasking and resource use that face the Intelligence Community in light of the present nature of the terrorism threat are expected to be enduring.

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Another factor which should be recognized in any review of intelligence collection on terrorism is that terrorism, unlike almost any other intelligence target, must be attacked at the tactical, law enforcement level as well as at the policy level. The Intelligence Community's terrorism collection effort, particularly its liaison with other government intelligence agencies, has produced a good deal more intelligence on policy level and general background matters than on the hard details needed effectively to stop terrorist acts.

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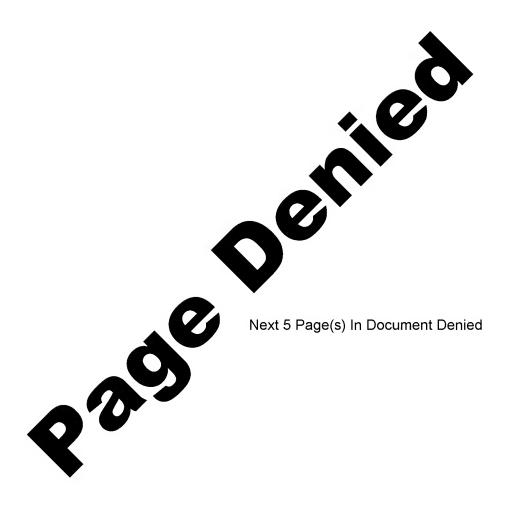
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While all the suggested actions are considered essential, it must be recognized that terrorism as it now confronts us is a war without rules involving a diversity of groups. These groups use many different modes of operation and they both borrow and copy from each other. The states now practicing terrorism and many of the groups now doing so are capable of changing their tactics to meet changes in our defenses. These groups are conducting intelligence activities against us both in an effort to thwart our defensive efforts and to ward off our responses. We cannot meet this kind of threat with fixed offensive or defensive postures. We must expect that much of our response to terrorism in this environment will continue to be reactive. We cannot hope to meet the types of threats posed by the present and forseeable pattern of terrorism without substantial increases in the resources devoted to this problem. For any real assurance of success, we must also maintain a high order of redundancy in the resources targeted on the priority objectives. Even with additional resources, success cannot be guaranteed.

The following sections recap the Community's present efforts against terrorism, its problems and progress, and a number of possible improvements now under discussion within the Community.

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WORKING PAPER

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- The restrictions now inhibiting dissemination of threat information should be revised or ways found to avoid their limitations consistent with protection of sources and methods.

- A common format for the dissemination of threat warnings should be adopted by the whole Community.

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